

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08  
FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02  
OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 L-03 H-01  
NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04 CEA-01 PA-01 PRS-01 AGRE-00  
/096 W

-----077941 180721Z /17

R 180228Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3851  
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MANILA  
AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY  
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
AMCONSUL AUCKLAND  
CINCPAC HONOLULU

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FOR USEC  
CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EGEN ECIN PORG, ASEAN NZ  
SUBJECT: ASEAN AND NEW ZEALAND

1. SUMMARY: GOVERNMENT OF NEW ZEALAND (GNZ) VIEWED  
CONSULTATIONS WITH ASEAN AS NATURAL EXTENSION OF THE  
COUNTRY'S TRADITIONAL CLOSE AND FRIENDLY RELATIONSHIP  
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WITH THESE SOUTH EAST ASIAN STATES. GIVEN NEW ZEALAND'S  
CURRENT ECONOMIC TROUBLES LITTLE WAS ASKED OF PRIME  
MINISTER MULDOON BEYOND MODEST IMPROVEMENT OF ACCESS TO  
NEW ZEALAND MARKETS. NEW ZEALAND WILL ALSO CONTINUE ITS  
PRESENT ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN THE REGION AND  
HELP ASEAN STATES IN TRADE PROMOTION EFFORTS IN NEW  
ZEALAND ITSELF. GNZ WELCOMES PROPOSED US ECONOMIC

CONSULTATIONS WITH ASEAN. REQUESTS FOR ACCESS TO US MARKETS AND ASSISTANCE IN CHANNELLING PRIVATE US INVESTMENT TO ASEAN INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS WILL MOST LIKELY BE MAJOR ASEAN DEMANDS OF US ACCORDING TO THE NEW ZEALANDERS. END SUMMARY.

2. PRIME MINISTER MULDOON WENT TO KUALA LUMPUR TO REINFORCE NEW ZEALAND'S TRADITIONAL INTEREST AND CONCERN IN THE ASEAN REGION. WARY OF BEING TOO CLOSELY IDENTIFIED WITH STRONGER AUSTRALIAN OR JAPANESE ECONOMIES, HOWEVER, MULDOON IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS LIKENED NEW ZEALAND ECONOMIC POSITION TO THAT OF ASEAN STATES THEMSELVES. ALL WERE PRIMARY PRODUCT EXPORTERS, MOST HAD SUFFERED FROM INCREASING COSTS OF IMPORTED ENERGY AND ALL WERE VITALLY CONCERNED WITH THE POSITION OF THEIR EXTERNAL ACCOUNTS.

3. ACCORDING TO NEW ZEALANDERS ASEAN STATES APPRECIATED THIS POSITION AND DID NOT MAKE MARKET ACCESS DEMANDS WITH THE SAME VIGOR AS FOR EXAMPLE THEY APPARENTLY DID WITH THE AUSTRALIANS. STILL, THE NEW ZEALANDERS HAVE AGREED TO REEXAMINE THEIR GSP SCHEME AND IMPORT LICENSING PROCEDURES TO SEE IF THEY CAN BE BROADENED TO HELP ASEAN STATES AND TO GIVE ASSISTANCE TO ASEAN MEMBERS IN TRADE PROMOTION ACTIVITIES IN NEW ZEALAND ITSELF. NEW ZEALAND WILL ALSO INCREASE ITS PLANNED ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN THE ASEAN REGION OVER THE 1978-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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82 PERIOD FROM THE 35 TO 40 MILLION DOLLARS ORIGINALLY PLANNED TO ABOUT 50 MILLION DOLLARS FOR THE FIVE YEAR PERIOD. ALL SUCH AID WOULD BE EARMARKED FOR SPECIFIC PROJECTS. ASSISTANCE TO THE PLANNED ASEAN PROJECTS MIGHT WELL TAKE THE FORM OF HELP ON FEASIBILITY STUDIES. IN GENERAL, HOWEVER, NEW ZEALAND WILL CONTINUE TO CONCENTRATE ON AREAS IN WHICH IT IS MOST EXPERT - ANIMAL HEALTH/HUSBANDRY AND FORESTRY MANAGEMENT INCLUDING THE PRODUCTION OF NEWSPRINT.

4. NEW ZEALANDERS WELCOMED FORTHCOMING US-ASEAN ECONOMIC TALKS. EXPRESSING SOME ANXIETY THAT THE US NOT MOVE TOO CLOSE TO ASEAN AND THEREBY IMPAIR ASEAN'S AND US EFFECTIVENESS IN THE REGION, THE GNZ DOES FEEL, HOWEVER, THE PRESENT TACK OF BEING RESPONSIVE TO ASEAN'S OWN WISH FOR TALKS IS TO BE WELCOMED. ASEAN REQUESTS FOR GREATER ACCESS TO THE US MARKET AND FOR HELP IN ATTRACTING PRIVATE US CAPITAL FOR THE FIVE INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS WOULD PROBABLY HEAD THE ASEAN REQUESTS LIST FOR THE US, ACCORDING TO THOSE HERE. SELDEN

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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